

What is claimed:

1. A prescreening device for supporting a metal detector comprising:  
a top panel;  
a plurality of sidewalls extending downwardly from a perimeter of the top panel and being operatively interconnected to one another;  
an interior compartment defined by the top panel and the plurality of sidewalls; and  
a metal detector support adapted to support at least a portion of a metal detector within the interior compartment, the support adapted to permit the metal detector to be supported in an operating position sufficient to enable the metal detector to detect the presence of metal placed in proximity to the top panel.
2. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein the top panel is constructed of a material that is not detectable by the metal detector.
3. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein the top panel and the plurality of sidewalls are generally rectangular in shape.
4. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein the top panel includes a visual cue.
5. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein each of the downwardly extending sidewalls comprises a bottom portion adapted to support the apparatus on a support surface.
6. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein the metal detector support is operatively connected to at least one of the plurality of sidewalls, and wherein the metal detector support is moveable between a plurality of positions within the interior compartment.
7. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein a first one of the sidewalls and an opposing second one of the sidewalls each include an aperture, and including a beam sized to extend between the apertures and support the metal detector.

8. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of sidewalls includes an access window, and wherein the access window is sized to permit passage of a portion of the metal detector through the access window.
9. The prescreening device of claim 1, further comprising a display unit supported above the top panel and adapted to display information.
10. The prescreening device of claim 9, further comprising a display stand, wherein the display stand is operatively interconnected to at least one of the top panel and the plurality of sidewalls and wherein the display stand supports the display unit.
11. The prescreening device of claim 1, wherein the top panel comprises a forward portion and a rearward portion and wherein the plurality of sidewalls are adapted to support the top panel such that the rearward portion of the top panel is lower than the forward portion of the top panel.
12. A prescreening device for supporting a metal detector comprising:
  - a top panel;
  - an interior compartment defined by the top panel and at least one sidewall;
  - a metal detector support adapted to support at least a portion of a metal detector within the interior compartment, the support adapted to permit the metal detector to be supported in an operating position sufficient to enable the metal detector to detect the presence of metal placed in proximity to the top panel;
  - a display unit adapted to display information; and
  - a display stand operatively interconnected to at least one of the top panel and the sidewall, wherein the display stand is adapted to support the display unit.
13. The prescreening device of claim 12, wherein the top panel includes a visual cue, the visual cue adapted to suggest a proper placement of an object.
14. The prescreening device of claim 12, wherein the metal detector support is adjustably connected to the at least one sidewall, wherein the metal detector support is adjustably moveable between a plurality of positions within the interior compartment.

15. The prescreening device of claim 12, wherein the top panel comprises a forward portion and a rearward portion and wherein the at least one sidewall is adapted to support the top panel such that the rearward portion of the top panel is lower than the forward portion of the top panel.

16. A prescreening device for prescreening individuals at a security station comprising: /

- a housing having an interior compartment;
- a top panel supported by the housing;
- a metal detector support adjustably connected to the housing, the metal detector support adjustably moveable between a plurality of positions within the housing;
- a metal detector supported within the interior compartment of the housing by the metal detector support, the metal detector adapted to detect contraband objects placed in operating proximity to the metal detector;
- a display unit adapted to display information; and
- a display stand operatively interconnected to at least one of the housing and the top panel, the display stand adapted to support the display unit.

17. The prescreening device of claim 16, wherein the metal detector is further adapted to detect the presence of contraband carried by a shoe placed on the top panel.

18. The prescreening device of claim 16, wherein the metal detector is removably secured to the metal detector support.

19. The prescreening device claim 18 wherein the metal detector is removably secured to the metal detector support by an elastic band.

20. A prescreening device for supporting a metal detector comprising:  
a top panel;  
an interior compartment defined by the top panel and at least one sidewall;  
a metal detector; and  
a metal detector support adapted to support at least a portion of the metal detector within the interior compartment, the support adapted to permit the metal detector to be supported in an operating position sufficient to enable the metal detector to detect the presence of contraband placed in proximity to the top panel;
21. The prescreening device of claim 20, wherein the metal detector support is operatively connected to the at least one sidewall and wherein the metal detector support is moveable between at a plurality of positions within the interior compartment.
22. The prescreening device of claim 20, wherein the top panel comprises a forward portion and a rearward portion and wherein the at least one sidewall is adapted to support the top panel such that the rearward portion of the top panel is lower than the forward portion of the top panel.
23. A method of prescreening individuals at a security station comprising the steps of:  
providing a primary screening device;  
providing a prescreening device in advance of the primary screening device  
providing a metal detector contained within a housing of the prescreening device, wherein the metal detector is adapted to detect the presence of contraband placed in close proximity to the housing;  
inviting an individual to place a shoe being worn by the individual in proximity to the housing;  
detecting the presence of or lack of contraband carried by the shoe worn by the individual; and  
investigating by use of the primary screening device, the presence of contraband detected by the prescreening device.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of alarming the metal detector when the presence of contraband is detected by the prescreening device.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of displaying instructions by the prescreening device to the individual.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the step of displaying instructions to the individual comprises the step of displaying at least one visual cue on the housing of the prescreening device.